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23 DEC 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Murphy Commission Briefing

DATE : December 16, 1974

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Robert Murphy, Commission Chairman

Dr. David Abshire, Commissioner

Congressman Peter Frelinghuysen, Commissioner

Mr. William Casey, Commissioner

Dr. Arend Lubbers, Commissiorer

Dean Francis Wilcox, Commission Staff

Mr. Fisher Howe, Commission Staff

Mr. Thomas Reckford, Commission Staff

Mr. Kent Crane, Commission Staff

Mr. William Harris, Commission Staff

[redacted] Intelligence Community Staff

[redacted] Intelligence Community Staff

[redacted] Intelligence Community Staff

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1. [redacted] Office of Security, gave the Commissioners a

25X1 briefing on [redacted] They signed the requisite papers.

25X1 2. [redacted] spoke generally from the highlights of his prepared text and charts, [attached (16 pages only)]. The Commissioners asked questions as the presentation was in progress. A major line of questioning concerned whether the DCI needed additional statutory authority to carry out his charge from the President to review and oversee the allocation of resources in the Intelligence Community. [redacted] responded with a detailed presentation of when and how the DCI is involved in the Community planning and programming process and in the program choices developed by program managers. He commented on lessons learned, new evaluation approaches under way, and generally related all aspects of the coordination of substantive tasks of the DCI to his leadership role in the direction and allocation of resources. He stressed that it was

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important for the Commissioners to satisfy themselves that proper and dynamic machinery is in place for the DCI to exercise the Presidential Directive. He highlighted several times the importance of the DCI's overview of national programs. He emphasized this last point in the chart presentations and by specifying a series of substantive issues.

3. In response to a question regarding the public image of the Community, [redacted] said that the Commission could play an important role in reassuring the public and Congress of the important role of intelligence in policymaking and strengthening their support for this role. Commissioner Abshire said this was a vitally important function of the Commission, particularly because this report would be the first overview of the Community since the Schlesinger study in 1971 and the first public review in many years. He said the Commission believed it was essential to get its story told to the public before support for the intelligence function was further eroded.

4. There were a number of technical questions on specific line items in some of the charts and on the manpower and dollar trend charts. The Commissioners indicated support for and understanding of the Community's efforts to cope with the resource dilemma caused by rising costs, declining manpower, and budgetary limitations. They also were interested in the Director's recent efforts to revitalize the NSCIC, in the KIQ-KEP process, and in various product reviews and improvements.

5. In a discussion of the requirements process, Ambassador Murphy commented that "far too much is collected, and the wastage is enormous." [redacted] said that abundant collection does accrue from the technical collection systems and pointed out that management emphasis is basically on refining processing mechanisms. He stated that this area is receiving priority attention in the Intelligence Community and especially at NSA.

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6. Tom Reckford raised the question of classifying portions of the Commission's papers that refer to "the fact of" satellite reconnaissance. [redacted] said this topic was currently under study and that he would try to work out an answer to the problem with the Commission Staff as soon as possible.

7. The Commissioners obviously enjoyed the session. They had not apparently been briefed on the institutional and substantive relationships nor been exposed to an overall rationale. They stated they were

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reassured that the management of the Intelligence Community was dealing with resource allocation in a careful and considered manner and responding to consumer needs. The Commissioners appeared anxious to make a positive contribution to the work and image of the Intelligence Community. They were profuse in their thanks to [redacted] for his briefing.

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[redacted]
Coordination Staff, ICS

Attachment: as stated

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